



Saint Bridget

Catholic Church

**100 Highway 311 • Schriever, LA 70395
(985) 446-6801**



**2017-
2018**
**Guide Book
& Directory**



St. Bridget Catholic Church

100 Highway 311, Schriever, LA 70395

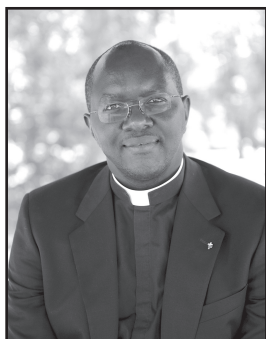
985-446-6801 or 985-876-7975

Rectory Fax Machine - 985-448-2764

E-mail address – stbridgetchurch@htdiocese.org

www.facebook.com/StBridget

web page - stbridget-htdiocese.org



Dear Parishioners and Friends of St. Bridget Church,

Grace and peace to you all in Christ Jesus our Lord.

On behalf of the entire St. Bridget Church family, I am glad to present to you our 2017 Guide Book and Directory. This little booklet is intended to provide information on who we are and what we do here at St. Bridget.

I am privileged and glad to have been appointed as the leader of this family of faith by Bishop Fabre in February of 2017. I am aware that I walk in the footsteps of those great priests who, supported by dedicated lay faithful have built the kingdom of God here in Schriever. With your help and support, my dream is not only to sustain St. Bridget but to grow it into a more vibrant community of faith.

May the good Lord bless the work of our hands.

Sincerely,

Very Rev. Simon Peter Engurait, VG
Administrator

Mission Statement

We, the community of St. Bridget Catholic Church, as members of the Mystical Body of Christ, are dedicated to living out our faith and belief as Catholic Christian people.

Through our words and actions, we strive to promote and live the gospel teachings of Christ. To recognize, develop and encourage the unique gifts and talents given to each person by the Holy Spirit. To unite as a parish family in the Eucharist; to witness; to share and to empower one another's spiritual growth.

Mass Schedule

Weekend

Saturday	4 p.m.
Sunday	8:30 am and 10:30 am

Weekdays

Monday thru Friday at 8 am

Daily Mass during Lent

5:45 pm on Monday;
6 pm on Tuesday and Thursday
Way of the Cross is at 6 pm on Fridays during Lent followed by Mass
8 am Monday to Friday

Daily Mass during Advent

8 am Monday to Friday
5:45 pm on Monday
6 pm Tuesday to Friday

Easter Schedule

Vigil Mass	8 pm
Sunday	8:30 am and 10:30 am

Christmas Masses

Vigil Mass at 4 pm Mass at 11 pm
Christmas Day at 10 am

Confession/Reconciliation

Saturday 3:30-3:50 pm
Sunday 8-8:20 am and 10-10:20 am
By appointment – call 985-446-6801

St. Bridget Staff

Very Rev. Simon Peter Engurait, Administrator
Jeanette Schexnayder, Secretary
Bernadette Mabile, Director of Religious Education
Peter Babin, grounds keeper
Janet Rivero, janitress

Adoration Chapel

The Chapel is open for adoration as follows: 6 am-8 pm during the summer and 7 am-7 pm during the winter. Outside of these hours, the Chapel will be locked, but accessible by key fobs. Those who would like to pray in the night are requested to secure the key fobs by signing up at the Rectory.

Parish Office

The Office is located in the Rectory behind the Church. The office is open from 8 am until 3 pm. New parishioners and those seeking baptism should contact the office at 985-446-6801 for information. Parishioners can also email the office at stbridgetchurch@htdiocese.org. General information can be found on facebook at [facebook.com/St. Bridget](https://facebook.com/St.Bridget) or on the web site at stbridget-htdiocese.org.

Weekly Giving Available Online!

Are you tired of writing checks? Have you misplaced your envelopes? Online Giving is available for one-time and/or recurring donations. This means envelope users can contribute online and not worry about the actual envelope! A “comments” section is available for those who wish to add a note for the contribution.

To make contributions, go to www.stbridget-htdiocese.org and click the Online Giving Tab on the Navigation Bar on the top of the page.

The ‘Online Giving’ Screen will prompt for credit card or bank transaction and whether or not the donation is one-time or recurring. Once the donation is made, an email is sent to the donor and the parish. This provides both parishioners and non-parishioners a means of helping St. Bridget. Envelope users will be credited with the donation made for tax purposes.

Brief History of St. Bridget Church

Over a century ago, the Morgan Railroad was built out of New Orleans headed to the west. Thibodauxville on Bayou Lafourche and Houma on Bayou Terrebonne were both by-passed, and the rail line struck directly westward across the Chacahoula swamp to Donner and on to Brashear (today known as Morgan City).

A branch line was built running northward by the railroad and another branch ran southward to serve Houma. At the junction of the Houma branch, a town developed and was called Terrebonne Station. This area later became known as Schriever.

A frequent visitor at the farm of the areas was the beloved Father Charles Mary Menard, the famous missionary pastor of Thibodaux who served that section for more than 50 years. His almost unbelievable mission jaunts took him through the Schriever area, out to Chacahoula, Donner, Gibson and even to Brashear (Morgan City).

He passed through Schriever also on his way down to Houma and settlements below. Everyone knew “le bon Pere Menard” and the energetic pastor knew everybody.

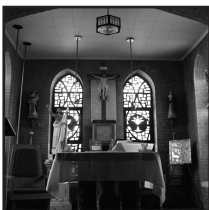
When the need for a chapel in the Schriever area was voiced, Fr. Menard turned to his good friends and unfailing backers in the Thibodaux-Blake family for help. The Blake’s who owned some property there readily offered a tract of land where Father Menard could build a chapel. The Act of Sale, dated October 21, 1875, states “...Eugene William Blake of the Parish of Lafourche, who declares that he donated a tract of land to the Congregation of the Catholic Church of St. Joseph (of Thibodaux) ... for the sole purpose of erecting a Catholic Chapel and school ...”

Mr. Eugene William Blake had married into the Thibodaux family. St. Bridget Church was named after Brigitte Emelie Belanger, second wife of Governor Henry Schyler Thibodaux (known as the “father of Terrebonne Parish” and the “founder of Thibodaux”) and aunt of Hubert Madison Belango (co-founder of Houma).

Brigitte was born July 4, 1775 in Louisiana when it was still a territory of Spain. Her name on her baptismal record is written in French Script- Brigitte. Brigitte and Henry were wed on May 22, 1800, three years before the Louisiana Purchase. Henry’s plantation was also known as “St. Brigitte”. He was the only man from Terrebonne Parish who ever became governor of Louisiana. His wife, Brigitte, was a remarkable and astute business woman, who owned land up



and down Bayou Terrebonne. Archbishop Perche of New Orleans approved the transaction of the Blake property, and Father Menard with the assistance of the Catholic families of the Schriever section erected a frame chapel in 1876, which was formally dedicated that year as St. Brigitte’s Chapel. The French spelling was retained for some time, but later when the parish was incorporated, the English spelling Bridget, was adopted.



Father Menard and his assistants at St. Joseph’s Church of Thibodaux served St. Brigitte’s Chapel and mission school regularly for the next 19 years. On the 16th of December 1911, Archbishop Blenk signed the necessary decrees formally erecting the Parish of St. Bridget at Schriever.

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The parish was formally chartered on July 24, 1912, under the legal title of “The Congregation of St. Bridget’s Roman Catholic Church of the Parish of Terrebonne”.

St. Bridget Church pays homage to the two St. Bridget’s – St. Brigid of Ireland and St. Bridget of Sweden. For the original church, parishioners purchased a statue of St. Brigid of Ireland, the patron saint of dairy farmers, since the area surrounding the church had many dairy farms. The statue was later removed, but currently has been restored and placed in the sanctuary.



In 1954, Father Bentz received permission to build a new Church. The new Church was dedicated on September 8, 1955. In the 1980’s stained glass windows were installed with one of the windows featuring St. Bridget of Sweden. Paintings of both saints now hang over the front interior entrance to the church.

In 1963, the present rectory was built. This is also the year that the altar was moved so that the priest would be facing the parishioners. Also, during this year, Bayou Blue which had been a mission Church of St. Bridget, became an independent parish.

During the 1970’s more stained glass windows were added to the Church and the baptistery was converted to a Chapel. More mausoleums were added to the cemetery and the Community Life Annex was built.

A replica of the original church was dedicated in June of 2005. It was built by the Joey Mike family. In the beginning it was used for daily mass. Today it is an Adoration Chapel, open 24 hours a day seven days a week. It is available for small weddings and on Friday at noon parishioners gather for the Seven Sorrows Rosary.

Sacraments

Anointing of the Sick

The anointing of the sick is administered by a priest through the power of the Holy Spirit to bring spiritual strength, grace and comfort during an illness, especially near the time of death. When a parishioner becomes very ill they can contact the Church office to have Father administer the Sacrament. This sacrament is normally only given once. However, if the person recovers from this illness and later becomes seriously ill again, the sacrament can be given again.

Baptism

Baptism can be held on any Sunday after the 10:30 a.m. Mass. Parents and godparents are required to attend a seminar with the priest. The dates of the seminars are announced in the bulletin and placed on the monthly calendar.

At least one Godparent must be an active Catholic and confirmed in the Catholic Church. This Godparent must provide proof of Catholic Confirmation (Confirmation Certificate).

Proof of the sacrament of Confirmation is required for at least one of the Catholic Godparents.

Please notify the Church office to sign up for the seminars and register your child for Baptism. This can be done before the baby is born.

Confessions/Reconciliation

During Lent and the Easter season the Reconciliation scheduled is announced at Mass and published in the bulletin.

First Eucharist/First Penance

These are celebrated by the children who have completed two consecutive years of CCD. This includes registered parishioners who are currently enrolled in Catholic School as well as the CCD program. Catholic School children must complete sacramental preparation in the parish of registration. First Eucharist/First Penance is handled by the CCD office. Call 985-446-1985 for more information.

Confirmation

Confirmation is a two year program which begins in the tenth grade and includes students who are enrolled in Catholic school as well as the CCD program. Sacramental preparation takes place in the parish. Confirmation is celebrated after completing the two year program. Confirmation is handled by the CCD office. Call 985-446-1985 for more information.

Weddings

Definite arrangements should be made with a priest at least six months in advance of the desired wedding date.

In order to get married in the Church, at least one (or both) of the parties must be a registered parishioner or has a domicile within the church parish boundaries. All others must obtain their Pastor's permission before they can have a wedding in St. Bridget Church.

The Diocesan Marriage Policy requires that prospective bride and groom must meet with a member of the clergy at his/her own church parish at least six months before the desired wedding day. They cannot schedule a wedding day without consulting first with the appropriate clergy. The couple is also required to fulfil and complete the Diocesan Marriage Preparation Program that includes: regular meeting with designated clergy; taking the FOCCUS Assessment Tool; meeting with the FOCCUS Couple Counselors; attending the Pre-Cana Retreat weekend.

Funerals

Contact the Church office for arrangements at 985-446-6801.

Liturgical Ministries

Acolytes

These are men of the parish who have undergone a special course of study. Among the duties of this ministry are preparation for Holy Mass, assistance at Mass and the cleaning of the sacred vessels after Mass.

Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist

They are members of the Church community who have been deputed by the Bishop to distribute Communion during Mass or to bring Communion to the homebound. They must be at least 21 years old.

Lectors

During Mass, lectors read the Holy Scriptures before the Gospel. They should be able read and to speak clearly so all can understand

Commentators

Commentators provide a welcoming to parishioners at the beginning of Mass. Then they provide insight to the readings of the day. They recite with the congregation the Gloria and the Creed. At the end of Mass they announce special events which will be occurring in the week ahead.

Music

These are the people who provide music and lead the singing during Mass. This is a very important ministry. It is often said that he who sings prays twice.

Altar Servers

These are the boys and girls, young men and women, and adults who assist in the Mass. They lead the procession at the beginning and ending of Mass. As part of their job they ring the bells and provide water for the washing of hands during Mass.

Gift Bearers

These are the volunteers who present the gifts during Mass. Any member of the congregation can volunteer to bring the gifts up at Mass. Simply notify the ushers that you would like to do it and they will give you further instruction.

Ushers

These members of the church family welcome parishioners to Mass. They also pass the collection basket during Mass. They have the responsibility of counting the number of people who attend Mass. When a Mass is crowded, they also help people find a place to sit.

Greeters

The greeters stand near the entrance doors before Mass and welcome parishioners as they enter the Church. Anyone can join this ministry. Let the ushers know if you are interested in being a greeter.

Parish Committees

Pastoral Council

The council consists of members of the parish who form one body with the Pastor in fulfilling the Church's Mission. It has the responsibility to set a vision for the parish and discover ways to involve the total parish in implementing the vision.

Finance Council

The council consists of members of the parish who form one body, with the Pastor, who assist in overseeing the administration of the financial resources of the parish in order to facilitate the goals and missions of the parish as set forth by the Pastoral Council.

Strategic Plan Implementation Team consists of members of the parish who work along with the diocese to implement the strategic plan for increase church membership and participation by members.

Parish Organizations

St. Bridget Knights of Columbus Council 12285

This is a fraternal organization of men who serve the church parish with physical, financial, and spiritual needs. The KCs meet on the 4th Wednesday of the month in Didier Hall. Details are in the bulletin prior to each meeting.

The Catholic Daughters of the Americas Court St. Bridget of Sweden 2461

CDA is the oldest Catholic women's organization in the United States. It strives to embrace the principle of faith, working through love in the promotion of justice, equality and the advancement of human rights and human dignity for all. These ladies meet on the 2nd Thursday of each month in the Community Life Annex. The minimum age for membership is 18.

Service Ministries

CCD

Confraternity of Christian Doctrine (CCD) is the required religious education program for school age students. CCD meets on Monday evenings during the school year. CCD registration is handled through the Director of Religious Education. Students attending Catholic School must register for religious education for sacrament grades (usually 2, 10, and 11).

Bible Study

The parishioners are invited to study scripture through the use of video programs and lecture. All parishioners are invited and encouraged to attend.

“Come Lord Jesus”

This Bible Study group focuses on the gospel for the upcoming week. Meetings are on Monday mornings at 9:30 a.m. in the Annex. Anyone who wants to participate is encouraged to do so.

Environment/Decorating Committee

The church is decorated to symbolize the various seasons of the church year as well as American holidays. Volunteers are needed to help with the decorations for these events. Those interested should contact the rectory for more information.

Ministers of Care/Homebound

These parishioners are Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist visit the homebound members of the parish and distribute the Eucharist. Contact the rectory to volunteer for this ministry or to have someone added to the homebound list.

Money Counters

These men and women are chosen to count the collection from the weekend. Checks and balances are in place to ensure that all proper accounting practices are adhered to and Diocesan guidelines for accounting are followed.

Church Cleaners

Volunteers clean the church weekly to prepare for weekend mass. This includes vacuuming the altar, preparing the Holy Water fonts, dusting the altar furniture, and cleaning the bathroom. This commitment is usually for a one-month period. Twice a year, “major” cleaning is performed in preparation for Christmas and Easter. This ministry can be done by families, couples, or friends. Contact the rectory to become a church cleaner.

Prayer Line

A prayer chain has been established in order to pray for those who are ill or in need of prayers. The prayer line also prays for those listed in the bulletin. Photographs of persons needing prayer can be placed in Church on the side altar. These are also mentioned in Mass during the Prayers of the Faithful.

Matthew 25

This Diocesan group of ministers is part of Catholic Social Services and serves others during times of disaster in the geographical parish as well as the community.

St. Bridget St. Vincent de Paul Society

They provide rent and utility payments to people in need who qualify and live within our Church boundaries.